

21st Legislative District



Representative Mike Cooper

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Financial Institutions
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Transportation

2004 Session Report & Survey

Dear Friends,

The 2004 legislative session is underway. I hope you'll help me represent our community by taking a few moments to answer my annual legislative survey, which you'll see inside on the third page.

Many people have contacted me to ask questions and express concerns about the Dec. 30th Point Wells Oil Spill.

As Chairman of the Fisheries, Ecology & Parks Committee, I'm leading the House of Representatives' inquiry into what went wrong, and how we can prevent it from happening again. The inquiry is ongoing, but one conclusion is already clear: A small investment in prevention could have saved millions of dollars in cleanup costs by containing the oil before it damaged water, beaches, wildlife and businesses. I report on the oil spill and how to prevent similar spills on the next page.

A personal comment. Locally, we have a right to be proud that Boeing couldn't find a better place in the United States to manufacture the next generation of commercial aircraft. Landing the 7E7 will help jump-start our economy and energize thousands of good-paying local jobs. But we can't afford to rest on our laurels!

Many people are still hurting, and there is still much we can do to improve the job climate, education and transportation, and to make health care and medicines more affordable. By answering my survey, you'll help me focus my time and energy on the issues that make the greatest difference to you. I'll report on the Legislature's progress when the 2004 session ends.

Although my district office is closed during the 60-day session, please remember you can always reach me quickly through any of the phone numbers and addresses on the left-hand side of this page. If you want to share your thoughts, or ask my help, don't hesitate to call. The most important part of my job is listening to you, and serving you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mike Cooper".

Mike Cooper
State Representative, 21st District



Representative Mike Cooper

Protecting our waters and environment

The Point Wells Oil Spill

Shortly after midnight on Dec. 30, a fuel-transfer at the Point Wells Chevron-Texaco terminal went badly wrong. Roughly 4,800 gallons of heavy fuel oil overflowed barge tanks and began spreading across Puget Sound before containment booms could be deployed.

The worst damage was to Kitsap County, where the oil tainted shellfish beds, stained beaches from Indianola to Point Jefferson, and polluted Suquamish tribal lands of immense cultural significance. The costs of cleanup and damage are already in the millions.

Foss Maritime took full responsibility for the accident. The cause is still being investigated. But we already know that the simple precaution of pre-booming – positioning oil-spill containment booms before large oil transfers – could have prevented the accident from becoming an expensive mess.



I'm proud our efforts helped keep the rescue tug Barbara Foss on station to fight oil-spills and other marine disasters.

My pre-booming legislation

Pre-booming works. The Navy already uses it for all Puget Sound ships, and some oil companies use it in the Sound. But it's voluntary, and not done consistently. We need a law to require pre-booming for large oil transfers. I've proposed one, and I'm working with environmental leaders, Rep. Brian Sullivan and others to try to get it passed within 60 days.

Millions of gallons of petroleum cross Puget Sound waters each day, and oil-transfers will always pose risks. But pre-booming can help us minimize risks. California has already shown that legally requiring pre-booming can prevent much larger accidents than the Point Wells spill from becoming environmental and economic catastrophes. Doesn't Puget Sound deserve the same protection?

Cruise ship regulation

Last year, I told you about a cruise ship that dumped 40 tons of raw sewage into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The company said it was an accident, but it didn't violate any laws. That statement shows why Washington should have a law to regulate cruise ship dumping.

I'm sponsoring a law to hold cruise ships to water-

quality standards we require of our land-based industries. I'm also calling for independent testing of cruise ship wastes, funded by charging cruise ships a small per-passenger fee.

Green Certification

The more we help our economic and environmental goals work together, the less we'll have to try to balance them against each other. I'm proposing a new "green certification" policy for state forests that will protect our forests and makes good business sense.

Giant retailers like Home Depot and Lowes now give preferential treatment to wood grown in forests that are independently certified to be well-managed, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. We can take advantage of these preferences: One of America's largest lumber suppliers (Lanoga Corporation, of Redmond) recently agreed to help fund certification of our state forests in order to "increase the marketability of wood produced here, in addition to achieving conservation goals."

Improving state forest management and securing green certification will produce environmental benefits for generations while helping us to get top dollar for our wood products. It's good business, and just as good for our environment.

21st Legislative District • Report & Survey

Hearing from you helps me to speak for you. Please fill out this survey by circling the answers that best reflect your views. When you're done, please re-fold this page so that my return address is showing, add a stamp, and drop it in the mail. Thanks for your help!

- Do you believe public tax-dollars should be used to create "charter school" alternatives to current public schools?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
- Should Washington State bar further imports of low-level nuclear waste from other states until the current cleanup of Hanford is complete?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
- Gov. Locke wants to re-enact \$74 million of business-tax incentives targeted to encouraging research and development that promotes job growth. Do you support this use of tax dollars?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
- Lawmakers need to prioritize future investments in transportation. In addition to funding more road construction, do you think the state should invest more in the following transportation alternatives?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
Buses	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Trains	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
HOV lanes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Bike paths	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

- Legislation has been proposed to prohibit teacher strikes and require binding arbitration to settle labor disputes between teachers and school districts. Do you support this idea?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
- Please check any of the following health care issues that you feel personally concerned about (you can check more than one).
 - ☐ Losing your health insurance.
 - ☐ Rising health insurance premiums.
 - ☐ Rising co-pays for health services
 - ☐ Rising prescription drug costs
 - ☐ The future of Medicare.
- Do you feel our state tax system is fair to middle class and lower-income families?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
- Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about state issues?

Thank you for taking the time to help!

Olympia, WA 98504-0600
P.O. Box 40600

Mike Cooper
Representative



Please
place
stamp
here



Representative Mike Cooper



Congratulations Snohomish County!

I'm proud Snohomish County will be home to the next generation of commercial aircraft.

Boeing's decision is a tribute not only to local Boeing employees, but also to our quality of life and our ability to compete for the best jobs in the world.

I take personal pride that I worked on state incentives that helped Boeing choose Everett for the 7E7. I pledge to continue working to improve our schools, business climate and quality of life so we can attract more great jobs to Snohomish County.

Manufacturer responsibility for e-waste

Toxic substances such as lead and mercury in electronic waste (e-waste) are creating increasingly urgent environmental problems and causing local governments and taxpayers to be stuck with ever-higher bills for proper e-waste disposal. About 1.7 million computers, monitors and laptops are discarded in Washington each year, and volumes are soaring.

I applaud companies such as Dell and Hewlett Packard who have started e-waste recycling and disposal programs. But our environment and local governments need all manufacturers to step up to their responsibilities.

I'm proposing legislation to keep dangerous e-waste out of our landfills by requiring all manufacturers who sell high-tech electronics in Washington to develop environmentally sound e-waste recycling and disposal programs. Manufacturers— not taxpayers—should be responsible for the costs of protecting our environment and public health against toxics in e-waste.



Part of the 136 tons of e-waste from local Snohomish County school districts collected in 2002. Cost: \$63,000 to taxpayers.

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